

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending. Applicants cancelled claims 2-8, 10-11 and 13-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, claims 1, 9 and 12 are pending. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue cancelled claims 2-8, 10-11 and 13-20 and other claims in one or more continuation patent applications.

Applicants amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2-8. Further, Applicants amended claims 9 and 12 to have similar claim limitations. Applicants amended claims 1, 9 and 12 in order to expedite the issuance of a patent and not in response to prior art. No prosecution history estoppel arises from these amendments to claims 1, 9 and 12. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705, 1711-12 (2002); 56 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865, 1870 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Further, the amendments made to claims 1, 9 and 12 were not made for a substantial reason related to patentability and therefore no prosecution history estoppel arises from such amendments. See *Festo Corp.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705 at 1707 (2002); *Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chemical Co.*, 41 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865, 1873 (1997).

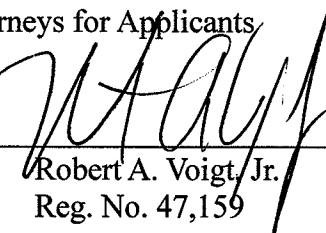
Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 9 and 12 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an allowance of said claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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